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PTQ8757

RELEASED IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

PTQ8757

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ORIGIN AF-01

INFO LOG-00 OASY-00 TEDE-00 ADS-00 ONY-00 SSO-00 /001R

DRAFTED BY: AF/RA: EPBROWN
APPROVED BY: AF/RA: TBFRIEDMAN
AF/C: RJFENDRICK

-----B782EE 032032Z /38

P 032030Z APR 95
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080473

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM RWANDA COORDINATOR FRIEDMAN

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: AMGT
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

1. CONFIDENTIAL-ENTIRE TEXT.

2. I JUST SPOKE TO THE BANK. THEY SAY THAT THEY ARE
SOMEWHAT BEFuddled BY THE GOVERNMENT IN KIGALI WHICH THEY
BLAME FOR THE DELAY. IN THIS TELLING, THE FINANCE
MINISTRY NOTIFIED THE BANK THAT IT HAD SELECTED THE
PROCUREMENT AGENT, THE SELECTION AND CONTRACTING OF SAID
AGENT BEING A CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR THE RELEASE OF THE
MONEY. THE BANK THEN "BENT ITS RULES" TO IMMEDIATELY
APPROVE THE SELECTED AGENT. THEN, AND UNEXPECTEDLY, THE
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 16 JUL 2007 200103014

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BANK REP IN KIGALI WAS CALLED BY PRESIDENT BIZIMUNGU WHO ASKED TO KNOW HOW THE SELECTION WAS MADE. THE PRESIDENT CAST DOUBT ON THE MINFIN'S AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE CHOICE. THE WHOLE ISSUE IS NOW IN LIMBO. THE AGENT SELECTED BY THE GOR WAS A FRENCH, A CHOICE WHICH SURPRISED THE BANK.

3. ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO I WAS CALLED BY A LOCAL REP OF A POTENTIAL AMERICAN PROCUREMENT AGENT. THIS REP TOLD ME THAT THE GOR, ANGRY THAT A FRENCH FIRM WAS SELECTED "BY THE BANK" HAD DECIDED TO REJECT THE FRENCH FIRM. THE GOR INSTEAD WANTED TO HAVE AN AMERICAN FIRM. THE REP ADDED THAT THE AMERICAN FIRM HAD TO HAVE ITS BID IN WITHIN TWO DAYS, AS I RECALL, BECAUSE SELECTION WAS TO BE MADE IMMEDIATELY.

4. I DON'T KNOW HOW THIS FITS WITH THE INFO YOU HAVE. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THERE MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF STRUGGLE GOING ON IN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BANK MAY, AS IT CLAIMS, BE INNOCENT IN THIS CASE. WE HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET THIS THING MOVING; RIGHT NOW WE NEED TO KNOW WHERE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CURRENT HOLD-UP LIES. LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK.

CHRISTOPHER

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